

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 ACDA-10 SCA-01 SCSE-00 /089 W

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R 190737Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1753

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS BANGKOK 4528

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN

SUBJECT: KHUKRIT ON THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND

PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 17.  
FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIALS USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS  
ON THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND:

REPORTER: WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER IS OF GREATER IMPORTANCE--  
THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES FROM  
THAILAND, OR THE REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM  
THAILAND?

KHUKRIT: THEY ARE OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE. THE PRESENCE  
OF ALIENS IN A HUGE NUMBER IN OUR COUNTRY. WHO DID NOT  
ENTER IT NORMALLY. IS UDESIRABLE. WHY HAVE YOU NOT PUT  
ANY QUESTION ABOUT REMNANTS OF THE KMT 93.RD ARMY.  
SINCE THEY ARE OF THE SAME CATEGORY OF FOREIGN TROOPS WHICH  
MUST BE WITHDRAWN? THE PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES  
IS NOT INCLUDED IN OUR STATEMENT OF POLICY BECAUSE THEY  
ARE NOT SOLDIERS. THEIR REPATRIATION COULD BE CARRIED  
OUT WHEN WE HAVE RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM TO A SUFFICIENT  
EXTENT TO MAKE CONTACT ON THEIR REPATRIATION.  
IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY FOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO HAVE  
TO BE ESTABLISHED. BECAUSE ONLY RELATIONS ENABLING TALKS  
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TO BE HELD AND UNDERSTANDING REACHED WOULD BE SUFFICIENT.

FOR EXAMPLE, NORTH VIETNAM REPATRIATED SOME OF THESE REFUGEES IN THE PAST. THROUGH THE RED CROSS WHICH HELD TALKS AND WAS IN CHARGE OF THEIR REPATRIATION. SIMILAR MOVES MUST BE MADE AGAIN. BUT THE QUESTION IS WHETHER NORTH VIETNAM WILL BE WILLING TO HOLD TALKS WITH US AGAIN. IF AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED WE WILL BE FRIENDS, BUT WE CANNOT FIX ANY TIME LIMIT FOR THEIR REPATRIATION TO BE COMPLETED IN BECAUSE IT DEPENDS ON OTHER PERSONS. BUT IN REGARD TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS, TALKS CAN BE HELD WITH THE UNITED STATES AND WITH TAIWAN IN ORDER FOR THOSE FOREIGN TROOPS TO BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT FIXED.  
MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

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